



**Virginia Library Association  
Legislative Agenda  
2014**

**Agenda items**

1. *Strengthen State funding for public libraries through the “New Age, New Library” plan to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century library users in Virginia.*

**VLA proposes that the Commonwealth sustain and extend the “New Age, New Library” initiative started in FY 2014 to provide Virginia public library users with contemporary digital library materials including ebooks, audiobooks, streaming media, and electronic databases.**

**FY2015      \$1.5 million  
FY2016      \$1.0 million**

Surveys and data on library use show that the greatest need in Virginia’s public libraries is to keep up with public demand for digital information resources. Data from online systems and in-person use counts show that Virginians turn to their public libraries more than ever for educational reading, vocational advancement, assistance in job searching, and personal enrichment. This funding will help Virginia’s public libraries provide the digital library materials needed by 21<sup>st</sup> century library users in Virginia.

2. *Support the Library of Virginia.*

**VLA supports the Library of Virginia’s legislative and budgetary priorities and proposes that the General Assembly continue the work begun in fiscal 2013 to strengthen the financial foundation for Virginia’s only public research library.**